



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2007-08-0178

May 12, 2008

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION EMPLOYEE

Inspector General David O. Thomas and Staff Attorney Amanda Schaeffer, after an investigation by Special Agent Darrell Boehmer, report the following:

In August of 2007, the Office of the Inspector General received a complaint from the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) that an IURC employee (“employee”) had falsely applied for Family Medical Leave benefits. Special Agent Darrell Boehmer was assigned.

Through investigation, Special Agent Boehmer discovered that the employee had submitted a letter to the IURC stating that his wife had been in the care of the Breast Care Center of Indiana. This letter was submitted on the letterhead of the Breast Care Center of Indiana. Through verification from the Breast Care Center, it was determined that the letter and letterhead submitted by the employee were falsified. It was also determined that the letterhead was created on a state computer.

The investigation was submitted to the Marion County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office and prosecution was declined. The OIG concurred in this disposition and alternatively filed the complaint with the State Ethics Commission

("SEC"), alleging a violation of the use of state property rule in 42 IAC 1-5-12. The employee admitted to this ethics violation and the SEC issued its findings at its May 8, 2008 meeting approving the finding of this violation. Because there was no financial loss to the State of Indiana, a letter of reprimand was placed in the employee's file in addition to the employee being terminated from state employment.

Dated this 12th day of May, 2008.



David O. Thomas, Inspector General